



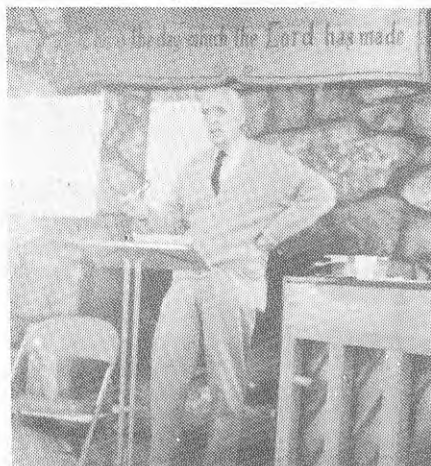
Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 24

JUNE 1974

NUMBER 5



DR. HOWARD RHYS



Valerie Russell with Ed and Freda Brown

Sumatanga Brings Ministers And Wives Together

Camp Sumatanga, near Gadsden, Alabama, provided the setting for the Annual Convocation of ministers and wives of the Southeast Conference, May 6-8. Nestled at the foothills of a mountain range and bordered by a lake, the location provided scenic beauty as well as restful quiet and spacious accommodations.

Opening on Monday at 2:00 p. m., a get acquainted session was led by Hank Tuttle of Huntsville. Valerie Russell of New York, from the Task Force on Women, led the discussion on "Free to Be — You and Me". "Free to Sing" was ably led by David and Brenda Chandler, when new songs were learned and enjoyed. Howard Rhys,

(Continued on Page 3)



CAMP SUMATANGA MAIN LODGE

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, JUNE 8, 9, 1974

8th Annual Meeting — Talladega College, Talladega, Ala

THEME: "WE ARE GROWING TOGETHER"

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1974 — DeForest Chapel

- 9:00 Board of Directors, Sumner Hall
- Registration, Sumner Hall
- 10:30 Song Service, led by David and Brenda Chandler and the Ministers' Convocation
- 11:00 Call to order, Wallace Boothby, Moderator
- Constituting Prayer, Warren A. Blankenhorn, Southern Alabama Area Minister
- Introduction of speaker, Mrs. Ruth Barefield-Pendleton
- Address: Dr. Howard E. Spragg, Executive Vice-President, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
- 12:00 Lunch, Fanning Hall

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 8, 1974 — Swayne Hall

- 1:30 Prayer, James E. Cowlshaw, Enabler, Ala. Tenn. Association
- Education Commission, J. K. Murphy, Coordinator
- Long Range Planning Committee, D. P. Flick, Chairman
- "Strengthening the Local Church," Local Church Consultants
- 3:00 Tornado Report and Outreach Commission, H. W. Tuttle, Coordinator
- 3:15 Break
- 3:45 17-76 Achievement Fund, Franklin Thomas and Roland Kampmeier, Co-Chairmen
- 6:00 Dinner — "Ole Thermometer U" & Special Recognition, Dr. Homer C. McEwen Presiding

SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 8, 1974 — Swayne Hall

- Prayer, Roy Bain, Moderator, N. Alabama Assoc.
- 7:45 "Strengthening the Local Church
- 8:45 Business Session
- 9:45 Rap with Dr. Howard E. Spragg
- Southeast Conference Youth

SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 9, 1974 — Swayne Hall

- 9:00 Prayer, Neil Mosley, Pastor, Savannah First Church
- Commission on Church & Ministry, D. L. Beebe, Coordinator
- 9:30 "Strengthening the Local Church"
- 10:45 Service of Worship, DeForest Chapel
- 12:00 Adjournment

Camp Glisson For Grades 4-9 To Be Aug. 4-10

Co-sponsored by the Georgia Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, Pioneer Camp-Summer '74 will be for campers who enter 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in the Fall, 1974. The place is Camp Glisson, Dahlonega, Georgia.

The campsite has 286 acres of beautiful woodland, waterfalls, mountain streams, located 3 miles north of Dahlonega on U. S. Highway 19 and just south of Chattahoochee National Forest. The program has almost unlimited potential for hikers and gem hunters, for sports and crafts, for quietness and free time, and for worship and celebration in the out-of-doors.

The Pioneer Camp will have five campers to each counselor, and will have discovery groups made up of 2 counselors, 5 boys and 5 girls. The emphasis will be on friendship, learning to live in a Christian group, appreciation and awareness of God's creation and camping skills. They will live in cabins.

The Explorer Camp, for campers who will enter grades 7, 8, and 9 in the Fall, 1974, will have groups of 10-12 with primary responsibility for determining program within the purposes and guidelines of the camp. Emphasis will be on Christian Stewardship, care of the earth, ecological awareness and Christian group living. The camp has separate and parallel programs for the two groups.

Cost is \$45.00 for the first camper in the family. (\$5.00 advance registration fee plus \$40.00 on arrival at camp). Additional campers in the same family, \$40.00 each (\$5 registration fee plus \$35 on arrival at camp.)

Early registration is necessary. All applications must be postmarked by July 22, 1974. Acceptance will be made on a first come-first served basis.

REGISTRATION FORM—Summer '74

Name Age

Home Address
(St., Rt., P. O. Box)

(Town, State, Zip Code)

Church

Minister

UCY MINI-CAMP A SUCCESS



Service of Worship — Skits

Sponsored by the Southern Alabama Area Council, the first annual Junior UCY Mini-Camp was held the weekend of April 26-28, at Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain, Ga. Limited to Jr. UCY youngsters between the ages of 9-13, participation exceeded expectations with 68 young people and 18 counselors participating.

Under the general direction of program director, Dr. Frank McCook, five college students from LaGrange College (Kathleen Sheridan, Moshile Rafeedie, Gary Pryer, David Hendrix, Rhonda Fleming) led our young people in a most rewarding study of "Prophets of the Old Testament," which culminated in a creative service of worship on Sunday morning. Kathleen Sheridan and Rev. Steve Gray led the recreation program while the Rev. David Chandler acted as registrar and corresponding secretary.

Under the leadership of Camp Director Rev. Harold Auler and our kitchen director, Mrs. Warren Blankenhorn, this camping experience was not only highly successful financially, but an extremely rewarding experience for campers and staff alike. It provided visible proof not only of the spiritual rewards of a three-day camping experience, but of the need to make this experience an annual affair for our Jr. UCY Youth.

—Steve Gray

Check Camp: Jr. Jr.
High

Previous Camp Exper.

Parent-Guardian Signature

(Please send Application Form, with \$5.00 registration fee, payable to Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, to:

Conference Office,
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Ga. 30329

(Health form required -- Register by July 22)

Chattanooga Pilgrim Has Learning Center Camping

The Learning Center Program (grades 1-6) held a special event for the close of Sunday School this semester — a weekend at Camp Ozone June 1-2. Family units were planned, so that there was adult supervision even if parents didn't come. Scholarships were available, so that the fee would not keep any away.

Neighborhood meetings for "Faith Exploration" began the week of May 12.

The class on "Jesus Christ for Today" had 21 people enrolled, meeting on Sundays at 7:30 p. m., with Dr. Beebe as teacher.

Langdale Minister Is Married

On Saturday, May 25, at 5:30 p. m., Miss Lennie Diane Clark and Stephen Collinson Gray were married in the Langdale Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, Ala. Revs. Warren Blankenhorn and David Chandler officiated. The church provided a reception following the ceremony.

Steve Gray has served as interim minister at Langdale for nine months, while Lennie Clark has served as registered nurse in a nearby textile mill. Their plans are to remain in the Southeast Conference.

Brauns Celebrate 50th

Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Braun of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 28, in the town where they were married, Yorktown, Texas. Their marrying parson and wife celebrated their 64th at the same time.

The Brauns are remembered for their many years of mission work in Africa, and for Dick and Trudy, who are now in Ghana, after being at Pleasant Hill.

FROM SIGNAL HILL

A new Personal Report, describes the literacy program of Dansalan College in the Philippines where missionaries of our United Church Board for World Ministries, Mazie and Lloyd Van Vactor, are at work. Dansalan is one of the overseas institutions being helped through the 17-76 Achievement Fund. A copy of the Personal Report has been sent to each conference office and is available for your use free of charge. Additional copies of the color, 75-frame filmstrip with reading script are for sale from the Office for Audiovisuals, Stewardship Council, 15105 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. The price is \$5.00 each.

LANGDALE CALLS JAMES COWLISHAW

Rev. James E. Cowlishaw has been called to be minister and accepted at the Langdale Congregational Christian Church (UCC), beginning August 1, 1974.

Mr. Cowlishaw has served the Belvidere (Tenn.) United Church of Christ since 1969, and recently began as part-time area minister for the Ala.-Tenn. Association.

Born in Hartford, Conn., Jim is married to the former Genevieve Houston of Burlington, Vt. The Cowlishaws have three children: John (15), Joy (12), and Jill (7). Having had considerable experience in the U. S. Army, Jim was in the insurance field, Aircraft Corporation, and entered Bangor Seminary, where he pastored two churches in Little Deer Isle, Maine.

Oak Grove Arts and Crafts Fair

The Oak Grove Arts and Crafts Fair will hold their second annual fair at Pine Mountain, Ga., on August 2, 3, and 4, 1974, beginning at 9:00 a. m. and closing at 6 p. m. each day. The Fair will be held in the Oak Grove community, five miles north of Pine Mountain, Ga., off of U. S. Highway 27.

The Oak Grove people are inviting nearby churches, or members of churches, to participate in the fair. Those who desire to participate should write to Mr. Larry Thompson, P. O. Box 439, Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822.

The proceeds from benefits of this fair will go to benefit others.

The entry fee is \$10.00. This is for a 15x15 exhibit area. Security guards will be posted on the grounds 24 hours each day, once the exhibits are there.

If you have an art or a craft you would like to share with others, please contact Mr. Thompson.

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CENTENNIAL WEEK HELD AT CULLMAN



Highlights of the Centennial Week held at St. John's United Church in Cullman, Alabama were:

The week started with an old-time box supper on April 28th. People who attended wore centennial clothes, and boxes were auctioned, with the gentleman eating with the lady who brought the box he bought. There were sack races, a pie eating contest, and other games throughout the afternoon.

On Monday night we had a concert by all choirs — Junior, Youth, Teen, Adult, and Quartet — and featured the organist on our 50-year-old Wurlitzer organ. We also had some solos, and Richard Bland was featured on his electric organ.

A fellowship supper was held Thursday night, and entertainment was provided by The German Band.

A centennial banquet was held Saturday night. Attending this were members of the centennial committee, the church council and wives, and centennial guests. Dr. G. Melvin Palmer from Greensboro, N. C., was guest speaker.

The Sunday morning communion service was led by Pastor Fidler. A "dinner on the grounds" followed the morning worship service.

At 2:00 p. m. on May 5, 1974 — exactly 100 years after the founding of the church — a service of rededication was held. Dr. Palmer was again the guest speaker. Greetings were brought from many people. A reception was held after the service to climax a thrilling centennial celebration.

A centennial museum was set up in the Sunday School Building and was open each day throughout the week from 4 until 8 p. m. Many people from throughout Cullman County and North Alabama visited this attraction.

Helicopter Comes To Blackwood

Scheduled as speaker for the regular meeting of Blackwood Community Club May 9, Col. William Shane of Ft. Rucker thought it pertinent to invite a MAST crew. They arrived in a Medical Evacuation Helicopter!

After inspection of the helicopter by the group of about 60, a film strip and lecture told the why and how of the Military Assistance by Safe Transportation program. This military program offers assistance through the law enforcement agencies in emergency transportation for critically wounded or critically ill persons.

Other visitors attended from the Sheriff's Department, Highway Patrol, and the County Extension Office. To "finish off" the evening, an abundance of homemade ice cream was served to all.

BLACKWOOD CHURCH EXPLORES FAITH

Blackwood Church had an enjoyable day May 4, as it held the first session in "Strengthening the Local Church." Next day in Sunday School and in worship services reports reflected enthusiastic Christian fellowship enjoyed, with anticipation for the next session.

Inspiration came also from many leaders and visitors present. Wayne Newton is pastor of Blackwood Church.

—Dora Brackin

SUMATANGA . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

from Sewanee, led the study on Galatians, titled "Set Free". Ending the day were Bessie and Ellis Fann.

Steve Gray led the beginning worship for the day in an outdoor setting Tuesday and Wednesday, with Valerie Russell giving her final contribution Tuesday. Tuesday afternoon was free for other recreation — golf, fishing, hiking, other games, or just plain resting.

On Tuesday evening, a session of "Ole Thermometer U" was led by Warren Blankenhorn and Peggy Hall, when degrees were presented to: Martha Murphy, Howard Rhys, and Steve Gray. The Freedom Story, given by David Beebe on Wednesday morning, was followed by "Free to Be — SEC" by W. J. Andes. "Waybread" (Communion) was led by James Cowlishaw, Ellis Fann, and Steve Gray, in the stone chapel near the lodge.

The very congenial group entered joyously and actively into all activities, and certainly a good time was had by all. It was regretful that only about 30 people were able to make the convocation this year, but those who didn't make it missed a lot of good fellowship. The Planning Committee for next year voted to return to Camp Sumatanga May 5-7, 1975.

Worship Made More Meaningful In New United Church Hymnal

Presented in clear, easy to read and sing type, the New United Church of Christ Hymnal will be published in the fall of 1974. A special pre-publication offer saves up to 12½ percent if ordered and paid for by June 1, 1974. Pre-publication prices: 1-24 copies, cash with order received before June 1, \$4.00 each; 25 or more copies, \$3.50 each. Inflationary trends make the final publication price uncertain. Order before June 1 if possible.

The new hymnal serves both as a resource for worship and as an indispensable instrument for teaching the faith, since the hymnal is based on the major affirmations of the Statement of Faith.

United Church Press
1505 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

TURKEY HAS "FAITH EXPLORATION"

The Rev. Richard B. Griffis, Leonia, N. J., national coordinator of the Faith Exploration project of United Church of Christ, will conduct programs in Tarsus, Turkey, June 29-July 5 to help missionaries "improve their skills in communicating the faith."

To be held in connection with the biennial meeting of the Near East Mission of the United Church Board for World Ministries, the "exploration" will combine features of spiritual retreats and modern group process.

More than 50,000 of the denomination's nearly two million members in the United States have taken part in "Faith Exploration."

"Missionaries, too, are victims of the U. S. faith crisis," he said. "Their work is threatened because of the decline in giving that has resulted from the faith crisis in the U. S."

He further explained, "Faith exploration gives those who take part an opportunity to talk about their personal experiences and to relate those to the Bible. Missionaries abroad have a need just to sit and talk with others about things that are important to them . . . They are hungry for life with meaning and they are capable of deciding for themselves how to be Christians."

We Are Growing Together

As a goal and as an evaluation of the Southeast Conference, the Conference will meet in annual session at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama, June 8 and 9, 1974, under the above theme.

In 1973, the Conference adopted an overall theme for five years, "Let's Grow Together."

There is evidence to suggest that we at least made a start in growing together: 500 people from 50 churches in a variety of Faith Exploration Events, 24 Local Church Consultants trained. Churches and Board for World Ministries responded to needs of tornado victims; a new Area Minister for Southern Alabama in the person of Warren Blankenhorn; an enabler one day a week for Ala.-Tenn. Association area, James Cowlshaw; the Conference Minister serving as an Enabler in the Georgia-S. C. Association area; Guy Colbert serving as Pastor-At-Large in North Alabama; eight people serving as Program Planners; Youth Mini-Conferences on a quarterly basis in Southern Alabama Area, N. Alabama and Ala.-Tenn. Areas; thirty-five men and women taking the first course at LaGrange College under Professor Frank McCook, preparatory to Lay Ministry (even a trip to the Holy Land late this fall); and many other events and programs.

What of the future? 1974-75 should bring a year of participation in the 17-76 Achievements Fund, where we will want to reach our goal of \$89,455, to be paid over a period of three years.

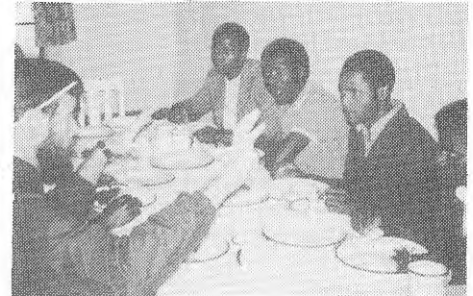
1974-75 will bring the Local Church Consultants into 15-20 churches to explore their faith, set goals for the churches and then begin to achieve those goals. We are happy that churches are giving more to OCWM than before.

Let's hope and pray we are growing together with Jesus Christ as the Head of our Church and Lord of our lives. It is He that can bring us and our world to a new life — together and in Peace. Shalom!

W. J. Andes
Conference Minister

The East Alabama Association H-B Toll Youth Cluster Group held a special youth dinner May 18, in Fellowship Hall of the Langdale C. C. Church. All Sr. High United Church Youth (boy friends and girl friends, too) and their parents, ministers and adult advisors, especially graduating seniors, were invited.

STOREKEEPERS IN TRAINING AT CHIKORE



BRUCE HANSEN is very concerned about the lack of employment opportunities for those graduating from secondary schools in Rhodesia. There are opportunities for whites, he says, but very few opportunities are being made available for Africans. After completing a study of the problem, he embarked with 6 students on an opportunity-creation scheme.

The Rev. Bruce Hansen, a missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries (and a friend of David Andes), is the adviser of the Rhodesian Christian Youth Fellowship as well as chaplain of our church-related Chikore Secondary School. Bruce is much concerned about lack of employment opportunities for black Africans graduating from secondary schools in Rhodesia. There are plenty of opportunities for white persons, he says, but few for blacks.

After carefully considering the problem, Hansen worked with six African students on a solution — a general store at Chikore. Since there was no store located at the Chikore mission station where the school is located, and since the people there had to travel several miles to find one, Hansen and the students have set up a store at the mission station which serves the community and at the same time gives the students a chance to learn how to run a store by actually doing it.

The store offers students a chance to earn tuition and gain practical training, which should help them find jobs. Through your support of Our Christian World Mission, you are helping them to find themselves in this very practical way.

O. D. Spain, Lay Minister, has been called as pastor of Liberty Church, Bowman, Ga. He will serve twice a month, first and third Sundays.